



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

LATINO/HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, the Latino/Hispanic community is a diverse group of individuals made up of distinct groups from Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean and Spain, who enhance the diversity and quality of life throughout our nation and our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the Latino/Hispanic community enriches our Commonwealth's people and culture by influencing art, music, food and language in Virginia, and by contributing to all communities through their strong commitments to family, love of country and respect for others; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, approximately 329,540 individuals of Latino/Hispanic origin live in the Commonwealth and this number is continuously growing. The Latino/Hispanic community contributes an estimated amount of \$460 billion a year into the U.S. economy and \$6 billion in Virginia alone; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, Virginia is home to the 16th largest Latino/Hispanic population in the country and ranks 21st in Latino/Hispanic growth from 1990 through 2000; and

WHEREAS, according to figures released by the U.S. Census Bureau on January 21, 2003, the Latino/Hispanic population is the largest minority group in the United States with a population of 38.8 million, or 13.45 percent of the total U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a growing Latino/Hispanic population that has made countless contributions to Virginia's businesses, industries, schools, and military as well as to our Commonwealth's legal and political communities; and

WHEREAS, since 1968, by Joint Resolution of the United States Congress and by Presidential Proclamation, Latino/Hispanic heritage has been celebrated throughout our nation in recognition of the many contributions Latino/Hispanic communities have made to American history and culture;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark R. Warner, do hereby recognize September 15 through October 15, 2004, as **LATINO/HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Mark R. Warner
Governor

Anita A. Rindler
Secretary of the Commonwealth